

OLL FILE Legislation
Recpt # ChronoOLL 85-3881
18 December 1985MEMORANDUM FOR: OGI/TNAD/TAB/DDI
 EUR/WE/IA/DDI
 ATT: FROM:
 Legislation Division
 Office of Legislative LiaisonSUBJECT: House Floor Debate on H.J.Res. 192
 (Armenian Genocide)

1. Attached for your information please find a copy of pages H 11921-11949 of the Congressional Record for December 12, 1985. These pages reflect the debate and limited floor action on H.J.Res. 192 "National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man" (also referred to as the "Armenian Genocide Resolution") and House Resolution 328, the rule providing for floor debate thereon.

2. As can be seen, floor action was inconclusive. The House began by adopting House Resolution 328, the rule on H.J.Res. 192 but then became embroiled in debate on an amendment offered by Representative Ford. The Ford amendment attempted to make H.J.Res. 192 more palatable vis a vis the United States' relations with the Republic of Turkey by changing the focus of the resolution from "Turkey" to the "Ottoman Empire". In so doing, Mr. Ford was apparently unaware of an effort by Representative Murtha to offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute for H.J.Res. 192, an effort which had bipartisan backing and Administration (the Department of State and the National Security Council) support. The Murtha amendment would have amended H.J.Res. 192 to delete the original text in its entirety and substitute therefore text which did nothing more than condemn genocide generally with no reference to any particular country or act. A vote on the Ford amendment was forced, but the amendment went down to defeat. The House then suspended further consideration of the matter without taking up the Murtha amendment.

3. It is possible that H.J.Res. 192 may come up again during the week of December 16th. We will keep you advised of its status. We understand that the Congressional and Administration supporters of the Murtha amendment will continue their efforts if necessary.

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Attachments:
as stated

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